

Welcome to 6th
Grade at MS839!

Questions?

Feel free to ask in the chat.
Please reach out to your
child's Crew leader.

Expedition #1: Who's in My Village?

Overview

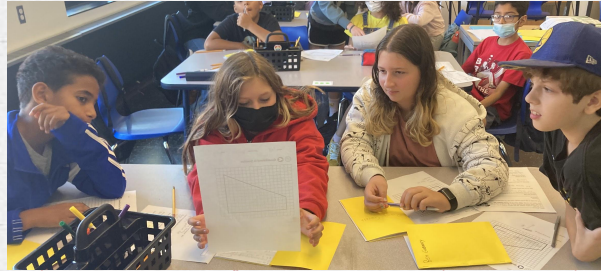
*An expedition is a **unit** of study during which students learning center around a theme that is explored in all of their classes.*

*6th graders start off the year in an expedition titled **Who's in My Village**. In this expedition, students will explore topics such as identity, community, and belonging.*

Math

What students are learning now:

- x **Geometry:** Area and Surface Area
- x **Group work:** Listening, sharing ideas and problem-solving.
- x **Using multiple strategies:** Showing their thinking using visual models, words, and/or calculations



Looking ahead...

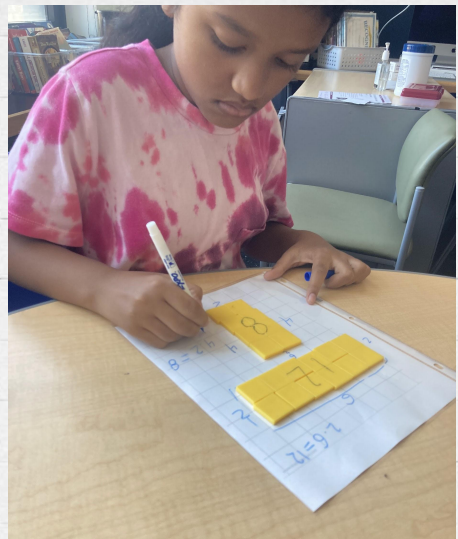
- x **Rational Numbers:** negative and positive fractions, decimals and integers on the number line.
- x **Ratios and proportions:** solving problems with ratios, unit rates, and percents,
- x **Division with fractions:** conceptual understanding and visual models
- x **Algebra:** Interpreting, writing, and representing expressions and equations

Math

We draw instructional materials from Desmos, Mindset Mathematics and YouCubed, Eureka/ Engage NY and Georgia Math.

How you can support at home:

- x **Promote** a growth mindset.
- x **Encourage** your child to try multiple strategies and show their thinking using words, diagrams, or calculations
- x **If your child is confused at home, avoid** trying to teach formulas or other “shortcuts” such as “keep change flip”. Encourage your child to talk to their math teacher(s) for support.



Humanities

- Humanities is an interdisciplinary (**multi-subject**) class that combines Reading, Writing, and Social Studies.
- We develop our own curriculum while following the Next Generation and New York State Social Studies Standards
- We place a big emphasis on close reading of complex text, writing for a variety of audiences and in many modes, and learning history through primary and secondary sources
- Right now, we are doing an exploration of identity by engaging in some multi-genre writing projects such as poetry.
- Moving forward, we will be reading our first shared text, “New Kid” by Jerry Craft, as part of the “Who’s in my Village?” Expedition.



Humanities: Looking Ahead

In the future, students will:

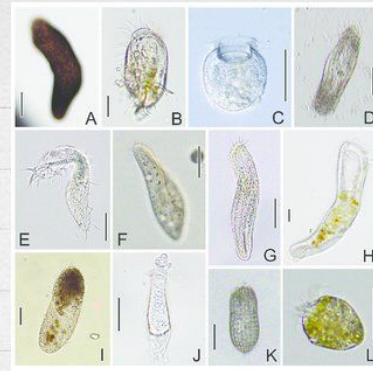
- Learn about about the rise of ancient river valley civilizations and examine their lasting impact
- Read shared anchor texts using research-based close reading and discussion routines
- Engage in the writing process for informational and persuasive writing tasks
- Deepen their understanding of climate change and sustainable communities
- Participate in class Socratic Seminar discussions
- Use Fiction Sign Posts as a close-reading tool



Science

"Big Ideas" for this expedition:

- Life is almost everywhere on this planet
- Organisms in ecosystems are interconnected
- The human body is a habitat



Case Study One:

Investigating the small and microscopic organisms of Prospect Park Lake and the surrounding soil

Case Study Two:

Bacteria & Fungi: Exploring the human microbiome

In future Expeditions students will investigate:

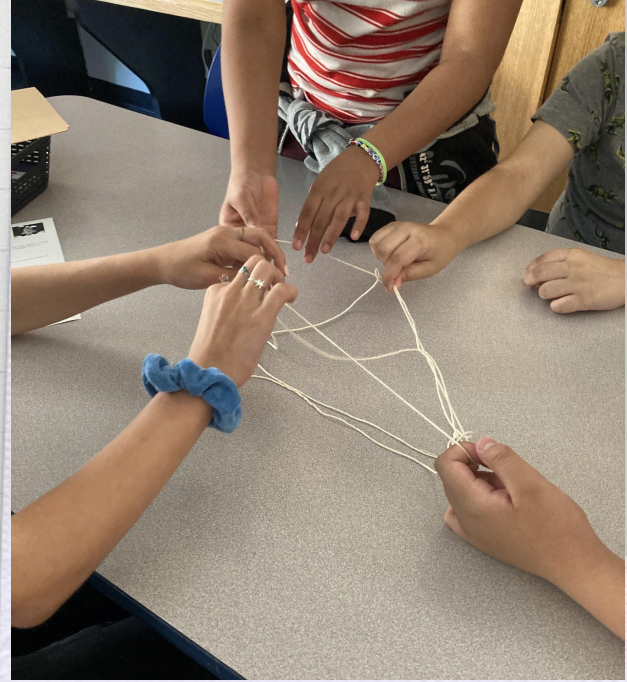
- *Investigating NYC Harbor water quality as well as urban design and development in the context of the Gowanus Canal*
- *Examining the causes, impacts, adaptations and mitigation efforts surrounding climate change*

Crew is designed to support your child both as a learner and as a person.

X Academic Support: Teachers reach out to **Crew Leaders** about any concerns or updates, Crew Leaders guide SLC prep and reflection on learning and growth.

X Social Emotional Growth: Crew supports students' emotional growth & intelligence of our students

- X Conflict Resolution**
- X Mindfulness & Self Awareness**
- X Collaboration & Teamwork**
- X Empathy**



Reading

- At MS 839, we value students' love of reading and support all students' growth as readers
- Currently, we are working on matching your student with books that are just right for them. This looks like books that:
 - Are appropriately challenging AND enjoyable
 - Push students to expand their thinking on relevant and diverse topics
 - Are windows (help students learn about identities different from theirs) and mirrors (where students can see themselves represented)
- Research shows that reading at least 20 minutes per day results in tremendous reading growth. As reading teachers, we support students in meeting this goal by coaching them on effective reading strategies and matching them with books they can and want to read



Reading

Your child may...

- Be grouped into **research-based intervention** and/or extension groups such as **Phonics**, **REWARDS**, or **STARI** based on needs that arise from the MAP growth assessment
- Engage in student-facilitated book clubs, based on interest
- Participate in regular conferences with reading teachers to set and track reading goals
- Create reading projects (i.e. book trailers, one-pagers) to foster a strong culture of reading, school-wide



Music and Visual Arts

In music class this year, 6th graders will:

- ★ Learn how to read and write basic music notation.
- ★ Learn the names of the notes on the grand staff
- ★ Explore different genres of music.
- ★ Create their own music compositions.
- ★ Grow as musicians through learning how to play the keyboard!



Our Grading Philosophy

Learning is a continuous process

We strive to regularly communicate with families about student progress

Grades are based on achievement of grade level standards not on effort or behavior.

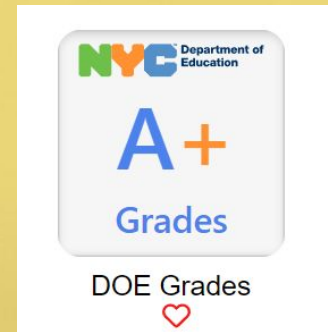
Grades should reflect what students know and can do.



For more info, check out Cornelius Minor interviewed on EL Live https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhtjo0FvtyI&feature=emb_logo

Grading Practices @ MS 839

- **What's new this year?** We are using the new NYC DOE grading platform (no more Jumprope)
- **What's similar to last year?** We use **letter marks** instead of numbers to communicate to students and families about how students are meeting classroom learning standards
 - We primarily use: **E** (Exceeding), **M** (Meeting), **A** (Approaching), **N** (Not yet)
 - Occasionally, you might also see: X (Missing), NG (Not Graded)
- **How will I be able to see my child's grades?** Starting October 5th, families will be able to access this grading portal through their NYCSA account. If you haven't yet set yours up (or need to reset your password), go to www.schoolsaccount.nyc. **Contact our PC, Leah, if you need help accessing your account.**
- **How do I learn more about the MS 839 grading policy and practices?** Look for an upcoming *Notes from the Nest* where Michael and Lauren will give full the rundown on the MS 839 grading philosophy, the terms to know, and everything we know so far about the new DOE grading platform!



Have more questions?

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